

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the application are respectfully requested in view of the amendments and remarks herewith, which place the application into condition for allowance. The present amendment is being made to facilitate prosecution of the application.

STATUS OF THE CLAIMS AND FORMAL MATTERS

Claims 10, 11, 14, 16, and 17 are currently pending. Claims 10 and 16 are independent. Claims 10, 11, 14, 16, and 17 are hereby amended. Claims 12-13, 15, and 18-21 have been cancelled in this amendment. Claims 1-9 were previously cancelled. No new matter has been introduced. Support for this amendment is provided throughout the Specification as originally filed.

Changes to the claims are not made for the purpose of patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §101, §102, §103, or §112. Rather, these changes are made simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which Applicants are entitled.

REMARKS

I. 35 U.S.C. § 101, § 112 and § 102 Rejections

The examiner rejected claims 18-21 under 35 U.S.C. §§ 101, 112 and 102 for allegedly improperly mixing method and apparatus limitations. Claims 18-21 have been cancelled.

II. 35 U.S.C. § 103 Rejections

The examiner rejected claims 10-17 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly obvious over JP 64-018683 (the “683 patent”) in view of 6,530,519 (“Suzuki”). Claims 12, 13, and 15 have been cancelled. Claims 10, 11, 16, and 17 have been amended.

The invention recited in amended claim 10 is directed to providing storage portions on a plurality of kinds of printing drums respectively, storing the length of each stencil to be wound around the printing drum in each storage portion, and calculating the stencil material roll residue by reading out from the storage portion the length of the stencil which have been made and subtracting the cumulative length of the stencil from the total length of the stencil material roll.

The office action states that the combination of the '683 patent and Suzuki teaches reading out the length of the stencil stored by the storage portion provided on the printing drum around which the formed stencil has been wound. However, the '683 patent and Suzuki fail to teach or suggest providing storage portions on each of a plurality of kinds of printing drums respectively.

The '683 patent discloses providing the magnet 18 which represents the type of the printing drum on the printing drum, and detecting the type of the printing drum by detecting the magnet 18, obtaining the length of the stencil of the type of the printing drum from a relationship, which has been set in advance. That is, the '683 patent discloses only providing the type of the printing drum on the printing drum and does not disclose providing the length of the stencil on the printing drum. Therefore, the '683 patent can only obtain the length of the stencil which is wound around the printing drum, the type of which has been set in advance. On the other hand, according to the invention recited in amended claim 10, even if the type of printing drum has not been set in advance, it is possible to obtain the length of the stencil which is wound around the printing drum and to calculate the stencil material roll residue appropriately.

Therefore, it is not possible to achieve the invention of amended claim 10 by combining the teachings of the '683 patent and Suzuki. Claim 10 is, therefore nonobvious over the prior art. Claims 11, 14, and 17 depend from claim 10, contain, all the limitations of claim 10, and are patentable for at least the same reasons as amended claim 10.

Regarding claim 16, the office action states that Suzuki at col 9, lines 45-54 teaches the use of a display means that displays the number of stencils which can be further made on the basis of the stencil material roll residue calculated by the residue calculating means. However, the portion cited in the office action does not disclose displaying the number of stencils that can be further made on the basis of the calculated stencil material roll residue.

Therefore, the invention recited in claim 16 is patentable over the '683 patent and Suzuki.

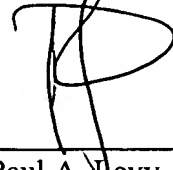
CONCLUSION

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections and objections of the application are respectfully requested in view of the amendments and remarks presented herein. In view of the foregoing, favorable consideration of claims 10, 11, 14, 16, and 17 is earnestly solicited. If

however, there is still an outstanding issue; the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned for its prompt attention.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fee that may be required to Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

Respectfully submitted,
FROMMER LAWRENCE & HAUG LLP

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'P. Levy', written over a horizontal line.

By:

Paul A. Levy
Reg. No. 45,748